

February 27, 1975

SENATOR MILLS: Senator Syas, I appreciate the way that you have written up your committee report as your comments to other committee chairmen. Most specifically I refer to the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill. I would appreciate if you would comment on that.

SENATOR SYAS: Well I don't think there's . . . I don't think there's much I can say about that. Let's put it this way. There were 3 for indefinitely postponing, and 4 against. The names are listed. However, bear in mind that in the committee report I've also, and I want everybody, I think Senator Mills for bringing up this question. I do hope that the people in all fairness that are looking at this bill, senator members, notice that some members of the committee, I state, felt that the issue must be settled and the only way to settle it was to bring it to the floor of the Legislature. Therefore, I can assure you, Senator Mills, the four that saved the bill in committee and also were instrumental in bringing the bill to the floor, I think there were 5, they by no means at any time all of them pledged their support to the bill on the floor. Fact is some of them are obviously against the bill. We do feel, however, that this should be settled on the floor of the Legislature because if not, Senator Mills, we felt that this will crop up from every session like some do. Now is the time to settle it. If there is an additional question you want to ask me, OK. I think . . . is that what you wanted to know?

SENATOR MILLS: Thank you. Now I'd like to address you further. As chairman of the committee, and as a senator who heard discussion, there was no opposition. Is it your opinion that perhaps the reason for this bill is that there are colleges that have dormitories and bonds that are possibly in trouble and want someone else to pick this problem up for them?

SENATOR SYAS: Definitely. I think that's . . . I think Senator Stull would say that's the reason. In the testimony, yes. I think what Senator Stull said initially helps explain it. He said that when we built the dormitories. Now the student enrollment has gone down and some dormitories are not far from being full. Another factor has been that many students, these days, do not live in a dormitory. They live in private homes. All of this has . . . since these were revenue bonds and the people were not renting the room, naturally the financial structure collapsed in many cases. That was in several of our colleges and the University of Nebraska also, where you do not have occupancy full-time enough to pay off these bonds at the present rates, the way they are supposed to be paid off.

SENATOR MILLS: Senator Syas, would it be your opinion then that those people who purchased those revenue bonds originally knew the liability that they were then taking upon themselves?

SENATOR SYAS: You're asking for my personal opinion, and I say yes.

SENATOR MILLS: Thank you.